

## STORY OF FAMOUS FRAUDS

The Keely Motor But One of Many.

Selling a Diamond Mine—How Fifty Pounds of Gems Planted in Colorado Bore Rich Fruit—Adventures of an Alaskan Alchemist.

(San Francisco Chronicle.)

The sensational announcement that the Keely motor, the promise of whose marvelous powers has for a score of years thrilled the expectant world, turns out to have been a fraud from beginning to end, as most people believed it was, sustained by all manner of cunning devices, of which the public has so far only received an inkling, calls to mind numerous notable deceptions that have from time to time been perpetrated upon our shrewd hard-headed and astute modern civilization.

The most dazzling swindle ever perpetrated upon a trusting public was launched in San Francisco on the 1st of August, 1872, when it went literally crazy with excitement over the announcement made by men whose very names seemed to carry convincing proof of its reliability that diamond fields of inconceivable richness had been discovered in Northwestern Colorado at a point about forty-five miles south of Black Butte, and near the Wyoming line. That very evening a formal meeting was solemnly called at the Grand Hotel, to which members of the press were invited, and George D. Roberts, speaking for his associates, entered into a detailed explanation of the new discoveries, stating that the tract covered not less than 2,000 acres, and that more surface prospecting with a pan in the hands of two men had resulted in the recovery of between \$50,000 and \$100,000 worth of precious stones, comprising diamonds of the purest water, rubies, garnets, sapphires, amethysts and emeralds.

**RICH DIAMOND FIELD.**  
He presented a report from the celebrated local mining expert, Henry Janin, who had carefully examined the ground with a limit of 100 acres and defined its character as a gem-producing region in glowing terms. Roberts added that he would decline to give private reports which he had received as to its richness, but that with two mountain streams close by whose waters could be utilized for hydraulic washing, the future development of the power of man to exploit the power of nature was supported by such men as William C. Ralston, Thomas Bell, Milton S. Latham, Albert Gans, General David D. Colton, William F. Babcock, Thomas H. Selby, Louis Sloss, William M. Lent, Maurice Dore, A. Harpending, General Dodge, S. L. M. Barlow and George B. McCrellan, of New York, all of whom were directly interested in the San Francisco and New York Mining and Commercial Company, which had been incorporated to develop the diamonds fields, and all of whom had sincere faith in the discovery. Fifteen thousand shares of the stock were issued at a par value of \$50, and in less than twenty-four hours all had been subscribed for and people were crying for more.

Ralston accepted the office of treasurer on the condition that all the stock should remain in his hands until the presence of the precious stones should be verified by the highest authority, and this fact saved many of San Francisco's first citizens from hopeless ruin. Clarence King was called upon to make a searching examination of the field, and simultaneously J. P. Berry, a well-known mining expert and operator of San Francisco, undertook a personal inspection of the ground on his own account. Berry, who was somewhat of a connoisseur in gems, at once pronounced the diamonds to be gems from the Cape of Good Hope, with a few Rio Janeiro stones, and Clarence King's official report, offered a few days later, confirmed the growing apprehension that the whole scheme was a swindle, perpetrated by Arnold and Slack, the alleged original discoverers, who had all this time kept quietly and wisely in the background. The swindlers fled to parts unknown.

Afterward J. H. Cooper, of San Francisco, made a full confession of the whole swindle, implicating himself, Slack and Arnold, and relating the manner in which Roberts, Harpending and General Dodge had been victimized. Arnold, acting for the trio, had bought fifty pounds of spinelle rubies, garnets, sapphires and other stones from the Indians at Fort Belknap, A. T., and with \$41,000 worth of rough diamond and other precious stones previously purchased in London, had carefully selected the Colorado field with a view of its favorable geological conditions, and spent several days in selling the tract after a most plausible and scientific plan.

Then they deceived Louis Janin, Mr. Harpending and General Dodge to the fields, artfully demonstrated the presence of the gems, surveyed the ground, enlisted General Dodge recorder of the Colorado district and the most picturesque swindle of the century was artistically launched.

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swindlers probably stands Alfred Paraf, a native of Alsace, handsome, polished, well educated, noted for his keen intelligence and ready wit, as well as his many qualities. He was remarkably proficient in chemistry, taking a genuine delight in the study in his youth, and following his early education with a series of chemical experiments in his own laboratory. After he left school he set out upon his travels, and having exhausted the funds allowed him by his father in profligate expenditure, he found himself stranded in Glasgow. This incident may be said to have launched the clever young fellow upon the career he afterward pursued to his eventual disgrace and downfall. He engaged the most elegant suit of rooms in the most fashionable hotel, visited a firm of wealthy manufacturers and announced himself as the discoverer of a new and cheap dye for coloring printing. Plunging into the laboratory of the establishment, the brilliant young fellow actually succeeded in supporting his assertions and was rewarded with \$4,000 in gold for the right to the use of his new coloring process. This sum was soon dissipated in new extravagances, and, again reduced to sore straits, he compounded a new color and sold the secret of the dye to his uncle, a rich manufacturer in Paris, for 50,000 francs.

Before this sum was entirely scattered to the winds he landed in New York, made himself known as a distinguished chemist, and cleared \$50,000 by the sale of a new "aniline black," succeeded in escaping with his spoils before the real owner and patenter of the process arrived to dispute his claims. He next swindled Governor Sprague, of Rhode Island, out of \$25,000 by a false process for the cheap extraction of madder, and during the eighteen months that elapsed before the bubble burst is known to have incurred expenses exceeding \$100,000, contracting large pecuniary obligations of ready money in addition to his outlay. He next invented oleomargarine and contrived to organize a stock company with a capital of \$500,000 for its manufacture. Investigation proved that he had glibly worked out the idea of the Parisian, Merg Mouniez, the original inventor of the process, but then Paraf's American company dispatched a son of Prof. Doremus to Paris to save its own standing by the purchase of the American right, which was obtained for \$10,000.

**THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.**

Paraf, still a large shareholder, next came to San Francisco to dispose of the right to manufacture oleomargarine in this State and to superintend the erection of works. During his absence the old company in New York collapsed and a new one was founded, from which Paraf was excluded. Paraf then disappeared from San Francisco, where his career had been marked by the same lavish style of living, and was next heard from in Santiago, Chile. He was accompanied by his pretended servant, Francisco Rogel, who afterwards turned out to be a skilled chemist, and aided and abetted by his clever accomplice he launched upon the unsuspecting Chileans the most flagrant swindle known in history. Presenting himself to the highest officials and social leaders of the South American Republic, ingratiating himself with them by means of his accomplished manners and brilliant intellect, he confided to them the wonderful intelligence that he was the discoverer of a process by which the dreams of the ancient alchemists could be realized and the base metals be transmuted into gold.

A series of experiments, which Paraf knew so well how to conduct, persuaded them of the truth of his claims, and they zealously embarked upon the enterprise. Smelting works were built and preliminary experiments resulted in a yield of \$18,000 worth of gold from a single ton of low-grade copper ore. The company's stock ran up to fabulous prices. Shares, the par value of which was \$1,000, sold at \$100,000 apiece. Paraf, disposing of his own stock when the excitement ran highest, is estimated to have placed \$5,000,000 to his personal credit. He delayed escape from the country a little too long. A director of the company, having his suspicions aroused, conducted some private experiments in the smelting works during the absence of Paraf and Rogel, and the discovery was made that all the gold discovered had been placed in the "re-agent" which Paraf claimed to have discovered.

This substance was found to be a hyposulphide of soda and gold, which resists the most powerful re-agents, but readily yields to metal containing oxide of lead or iron. Paraf's life was only saved by his rescue from the indignant mob by the officers of the law. He was sentenced to five years' exile from Santiago, the time to be passed at hard labor under guard in the Chilean settlement of Valdivia. Unhappily for the ethics of the tale, this sentence, pronounced on September 29, 1877, was two years later annulled.

**EX-VOLUNTEERS IN HARD LUCK.**

When the President made his two calls on the country last year for volunteers to fight Spain, 200,000 men left their homes and employment to enlist. Since the war has ended about 100,000 of these have been honorably discharged. Many of them went back to their old employment and are engaged once more in the peaceful arts. A great number, however, have failed to get work from one cause or another. In a great many cases these ex-soldiers gave up good positions when the country needed their services with the understanding that when they were mustered out they could go back to the work they left when the war began. In many instances the former soldiers now know that the specious promises of getting back their jobs were not made in good faith, and they are now reduced to very straitened circumstances. In many cases men who lately wore the uniform of Uncle Sam's volunteer army are obliged to practically live on charity.

The same state of affairs was witnessed at the close of the civil war and has been the case after every war in the world's history when large numbers of men were suddenly thrown out of a means of livelihood by being discharged from service after peace was declared. In olden times these large bodies of ex-soldiers have often been the cause of much trouble to their country and have in some instances fomented riots and other expressions of discontent.

The Grand Army of the Republic was first started to help the men who were then discharged, and much good was done in the way of aiding the ex-fighters and their families.

The men who composed the volunteer army of the United States are very different from the class who created trouble after many European wars. Those men were mere fighters and knew no other trade, while in the present instance the ex-soldiers are a great majority of cases were holding good positions before the war. Among them are ministers, doctors, lawyers, electricians, bridge builders, iron workers, mechanics, nurses and men in other walks of

### The Song of the Cradle.

Bye, bye! Hope rises high:  
There's a sweet little cradle  
lulling up in the sky;  
A dear little life that is  
coming to bless:  
Two soft chubby hands  
that will pat and caress;  
A pure little soul winging  
down from above;  
A darling to care for, a  
baby to love.



In the days when Eve sinned it was written that motherhood should hereafter be accompanied with pain and sorrow; but this curse upon our fore-parent has been lightened more and more as mankind have learned to rise superior to many of their sins and mistakes.

One of the grandest agencies which enlightened Science has discovered to relieve motherhood from excessive suffering is the "Favorite Prescription" devised by Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician of the "Invalide's Hotel and Surgical Institute," of Buffalo, N. Y. This wonderful "Prescription" imbues the entire nervous system with natural, healthy vitality; gives elastic vigor to the delicate organism specially concerned in motherhood; renders the prospective mother strong and cheerful and makes the coming of baby entirely free from danger and almost free from pain.

The delighted gratitude of Mrs. Pearl Walton, of Alvo, Cass Co., Neb., will find an echo in the heart of every expectant mother:

"Previous to the birth of my child," writes Mrs. Walton, "I had no appetite, was sick at my stomach, had headache, could not rest at night, was completely worn out in every way. I commenced to use Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and began to improve right away. I used two bottles of this great medicine and felt like a new person. At the time of confinement I was in labor but a little while and I owe it all to that great remedy—Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription."

Dr. Pierce's Pellets cure constipation.

Life, and they are, besides, from every State of the Union.

In New York City, however, the distress is seen more prominently perhaps than in any other place because more of them have been attracted to that city by the hope of work. They supposed that it would be easy to find employment in such a big place.

The Red Cross Relief Association is doing what it can for these men. The association has the names of between 700 and 1,000 men for whom it is endeavoring to obtain employment and can supply to employers workers experienced in almost any profession, business or trade. They do not ask for high wages, but wish only to earn a living.

During the few heavy snow falls that New York has had this winter some of the ex-soldiers obtained work in the Street Cleaning Department, and citizens have several times stopped to watch men dressed in the army uniform stooping to shovel snow from the curb.

Among the men who have applied to the Red Cross for work is a preacher from Texas, who gave up his charge and enlisted as a private. He thought that he could get mission work to do in New York after he was discharged.

He could get nothing, however, until the first call of snow, when the parson went to work in a light summer suit. When asked why he gave up preaching the gospel to shoulder a musket, the Texan said frankly:

"I believe in teaching and preaching the gospel of peace until an enemy attacks my country. Then the gospel of peace becomes ineffective. Nothing but solid lead, and plenty of it, is any sort of use. I thought I could better serve the Master by shooting Spaniards than by talking religion, and so I just enlisted."

**TWO LEGS BETWEEN THEM.**

Old Reunion of Old Friends in a Police Station.

[Philadelphia Press.]

"It's him—by jinks, it's him, all but one leg!" thought a lodger in the Twenty-second District Police Station, of Philadelphia, regarding a man across the cage.

"It's him, all right," muttered the other man. "But he had two legs when I knew him."

The men eyed each other. Then they drew nearer together. The first limped around the second and dropped. Then the second limped around the first and stopped.

"Ain't you Frank Williams?" asked the first.

"Ain't you Jack Noyes?" asked the second.

Then they fell on each other's neck and wept.

"Where'd you leave yours?" said Noyes, after the effusive greeting.

"You and me walked out of Baltimore two years ago this month," said Williams, "a pair of stonecutters as ever had a job. Now look at us. How'd you lose your leg?"

"Train in Ohio," said Williams. "Where'd you leave yours?"

"Along the railroad somewhere up in Maine. Fell off a blind baggage."

In the morning the turnkey let them out. "We'll stick together this time, won't we?" asked one.

"You bet we will," said the other, and lashed together the two derelicts drifted away on the sea of life, looking for a breakfast.

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